Scholarships to OBC Students in Kerala

1153. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Kerala regarding pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A proposal for releasing fund under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarships for students belonging to Other Backward Clss (OBCs) has been received from the Government of Kerala during 1999-2000. The State Government has been requested to send relevant details in support of the proposal which is still awaited. No proposal regarding Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students have been received form Kerala so far.

Target for Steel Production

1154. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievement made in steel production during Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether the production of steel declined during the Eigth Plan period;

(c) if so, the reasons for decline in the production of steel;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the production in Ninth Plan;

(e) if so, the target set therefor; and

(f) the efforts proposed to be made to achieve, the higher target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY), (a) The actual crude steel production in 199495, the terminal year for original VIII Five Year Plan was 19.77 million tonnes as against the estimated production of 24.92 million tonnes assessed by the Working Group on Iron and Steel for the VIII Five Year Plan set up by Planning Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.